

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Participatory Exploration

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Background



In FY11, a Participatory Exploration Office will be established at a funding level of \$5M per year.

The new office will:

1. Support research in new technologies to increase public participation.
2. Coordinate NASA-wide efforts to ensure that Participatory Exploration activities are included in future missions. The Office also will coordinate and promote the inclusion of participatory exploration activities in other Agency projects, outreach and education practices.
3. Act as a clearinghouse for identifying and communicating best practices in Participatory Exploration.

Note: *Establishing Pathways for Participatory Exploration* is Outcome 6.4 in NASA's draft FY10 Strategic Plan.

Participatory Exploration



*Participatory Exploration is
the active involvement of individuals in the experience of and as
contributors and collaborators in NASA's research, science and
discovery activities.*

The Participatory Exploration Office will foster, facilitate and support active public engagement and collaboration by combining improved technology and Open Government practices to provide a spectrum of engagement possibilities.

The Participatory Exploration Office will increase

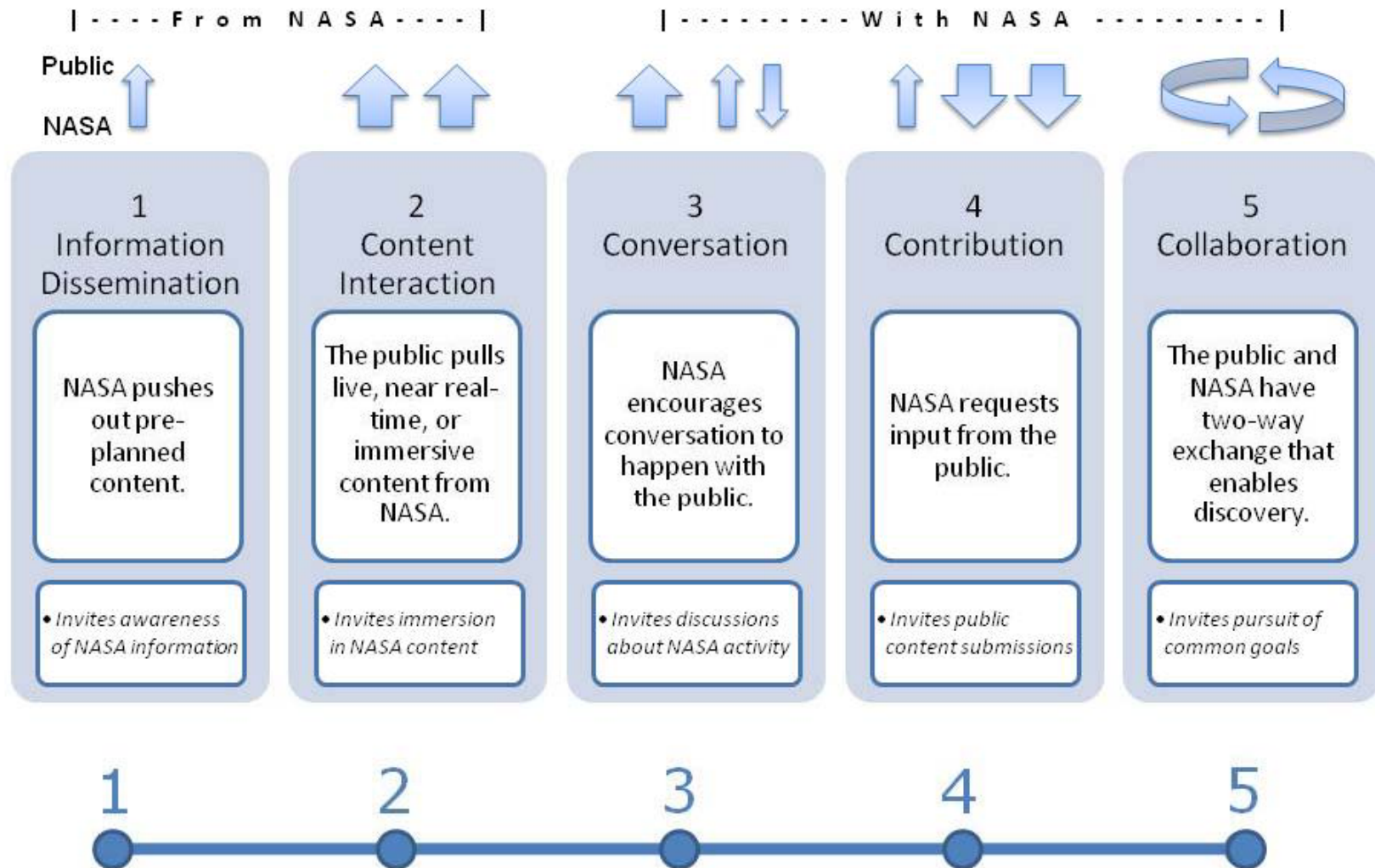
- Opportunities for personal connections with NASA and its missions;
- Public interest in STEM study and careers;
- NASA's access to the interest, knowledge, skills, creativity and innovation that exists outside the NASA community.

Focus Areas

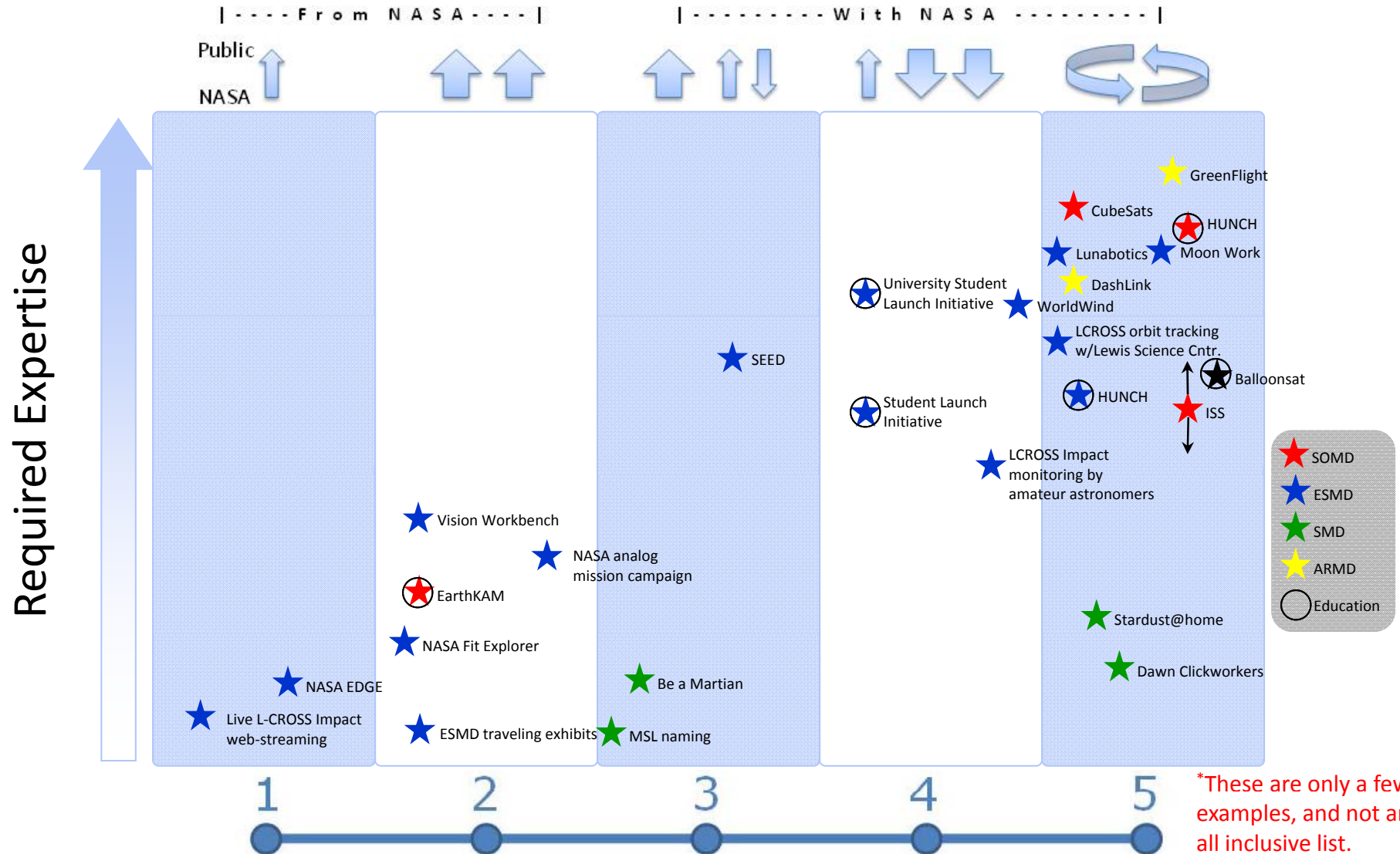


- **Support Research in New Technologies**
 - Leverage investments in current technologies with careful application of seed funds to augment or expand opportunities
 - Develop a robust approach to identifying and supporting new technologies
- **Coordinate NASA-wide Efforts to Include Participatory Exploration in Future Missions**
 - Lead and promote the benefits of Participatory Exploration to organizations across the Agency, ensuring that Participatory Exploration is fully incorporated into future missions
 - Identify updates to NASA policies, requirements and processes to ensure the effective implementation of Participatory Exploration
 - Support NASA's OpenGov goals as a flagship initiative
- **Act as a Clearinghouse**
 - Organize an annual NASA workshop to identify best practices
 - Develop a website that will be a resource for Participatory Exploration projects, ideas, best practices, and suggestions from the public
 - Communicate with other government, academic and non-government organizations, including the private and international sectors, to share our programs/experiences and learn from theirs

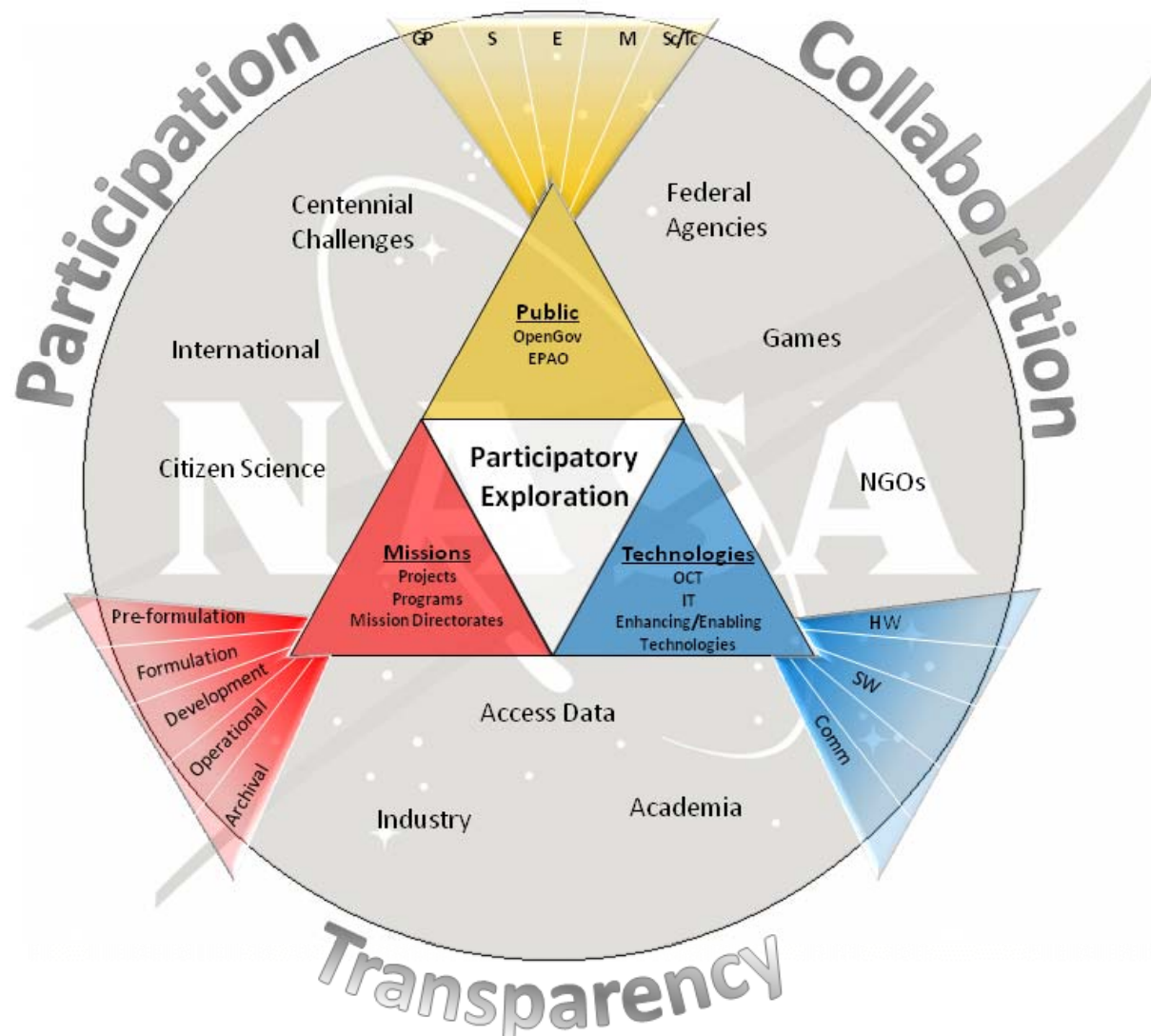
Five Degrees of Public Engagement



NASA Participatory Exploration Examples of Existing Activities *



PE Conceptual Model



Participatory Exploration – Creating the Future Together



We believe:

Participatory exploration will create opportunities for individuals to directly engage with and contribute their time, energy, passion, and intellect to NASA's efforts. These experiences will drive innovation, raise awareness of the important role of science and engineering in society, and encourage the pursuit of careers in STEM fields.

Participatory Exploration will tap the public's creativity and capabilities to support NASA's missions, bringing fresh ideas and new approaches to achieving our goals.

Ultimately, participatory exploration will help build a future in which the public is an active partner in NASA's ongoing voyage of innovation, exploration and discovery. Instead of pointing at our work and saying "Look at what we're doing, look at where we're going", Participatory Exploration extends our hand and says "Join us!".